IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, lines 17-24, as follows:

Solution 6 therefore seems of interest. Nevertheless, this solution has the drawback of requiring pre-encoding, as specified in the document entitled "*Multiple parallel concatenation of circular recursive systematic codes*" cited above. The duration of pre-encoding is ~~a not~~ not an insignificant constraint. This ~~time~~ duration is the main factor in the latency of the encoder, that is to say the delay between the inputting of a first bit into the encoder and the outputting of a first encoded bit. This is a particular nuisance for certain applications sensitive to transmission times.

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

For encoding a source sequence of symbols ($\underline{u}$) as an encoded sequence[[:]], the source sequence ($\underline{u}$) is divided [[(508)]] into p_1 first sub-sequences ($\underline{U}_i$), p_1 being a positive integer, and each of the first sub-sequences ($\underline{U}_i$) is encoded ~~by means of~~ in a first circular convolutional encoding method. [[; the]] The source sequence ($\underline{u}$) is interleaved [[(506)]] into an interleaved sequence ($\underline{u}^*$)[[;]], and the interleaved sequence ($\underline{u}^*$) is divided [[(507)]] into p_2 second sub-sequences ($\underline{U}'_i$), p_2 being a positive integer. ; ~~and each~~ Each of the second sub-sequences ($\underline{U}'_i$) is encoded ~~by means of~~ in a second circular convolutional encoding method. At least one of the integers p_1 and p_2 is strictly

greater than 1 and at least one of the first sub-sequences ($\underline{U}_i$) is not interleaved into any of the second sub-sequences ($\underline{U}'_j$). ~~Figure 5.~~

(It is noted that the above underlining of the following symbols is original, and is meant to be permanent: $\underline{u}$, $\underline{U}_i$, $\underline{u}^*$, $\underline{U}'_i$, $\underline{U}'_j$)